

CLAIMS

1. A session initiating method that is applied to a computer system equipped with a graphical user interface, comprising:
 - specifying an icon image that corresponds to each of user;
 - 5 determining whether start information that is necessary for initiating a session that is predetermined is embedded in the icon image specified in the image specifying;
 - extracting the start information from the icon image based on an algorithm that uniquely corresponds to each of the user when it is
 - 10 determined that the start information is embedded in the icon image in the determining;
 - setting up the session;
 - inputting, during the session that is set up in the setting up, the start information extracted in the extracting;
 - 15 verifying whether the start information input in the inputting meets a condition for initiating the session; and
 - controlling the session to initiate the session if it is determined, in the verifying, that the start information meets the condition, and to discontinue setting up the session if it is determined, in the verifying,
 - 20 that the start information does not meet the condition.
2. The session initiating method according to claim 1, wherein the start information includes an identification and a password of the user.
- 25 3. An icon-image creating apparatus that creates an icon image to

initiate the session according to claim 1 or 2, comprising:

- an image-information inputting unit that inputs icon image information that corresponds to each of users;
- a user-information inputting unit that inputs user information that is assigned to each of the users;
- an area detecting unit that detects an area in which additional information can be embedded without altering the icon image, according to a structure of the icon image information input by the image-information inputting unit;
- 10 an area determining unit that determines the area in which the user information, which is input by the user information inputting unit, is to be embedded, from the areas detected by the area detecting unit, based on an algorithm that uniquely corresponds to each of the users;
- 15 an information embedding unit that embeds the user information in the area determined by the area determining unit; and
- an icon-image outputting unit that outputs the icon image in which the user information is embedded by the information embedding unit.

20 4. The icon-image creating apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the user information includes an identification and a password of the user necessary for initiating the session.

5. A computer program for initiating a session, the computer program applied to a computer system equipped with a graphical user

interface, making a computer execute:

- specifying an icon image that corresponds to each of user;
- determining whether start information that is necessary for initiating a session that is predetermined is embedded in the icon image
- 5 specified in the image specifying;
- extracting the start information from the icon image based on an algorithm that uniquely corresponds to each of the user when it is determined that the start information is embedded in the icon image in the determining;
- 10 setting up the session;
 - inputting, during the session that is set up in the setting up, the start information extracted in the extracting;
 - verifying whether the start information input in the inputting meets a condition for initiating the session; and
- 15 controlling the session to initiate the session if it is determined, in the verifying, that the start information meets the condition, and to discontinue setting up the session if it is determined, in the verifying, that the start information does not meet the condition.
- 20 6. The computer program for initiating a session according to claim 5, wherein the start information includes an identification and a password of the user.
- 7. A computer program for creating an icon-image to initiate the session according to claim 5 or 6, making a computer execute:
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inputting icon image information that corresponds to each of users;

inputting user information that is assigned to each of the users;

detecting an area in which additional information can be

5 embedded without altering the icon image, according to a structure of the icon image information input by the image-information inputting unit;

determining the area in which the user information, which is input by the user information inputting unit, is to be embedded, from the

10 areas detected by the area detecting unit, in accordance with an algorithm that uniquely corresponds to each of the users;

embedding the user information in the area determined by the area determining unit; and

outputting the icon image in which the user information is

15 embedded by the information embedding unit.

8. The computer program for creating an icon-image according to claim 7, wherein the user information contains an identification and a password of the user necessary for initiating the session.